AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-2.   (Canceled)

3.   (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 37, further comprising the act of receiving, from the ~~remote device~~computing system, information representing a television signal provider that is to broadcast the one or more television programs to be recorded by the interactive television system, wherein the television signal provider has been selected at the ~~remote device~~computing system in response to input received at the ~~remote device~~computing system.

4.   (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 3, further comprising, prior to the act of receiving information representing a television signal provider, the act of transmitting, to the ~~remote device~~computing system, information identifying a plurality of television signal providers that are capable of broadcasting television programs to the interactive television system.

5.   (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 37, wherein the server communicates with the ~~remote device~~computing system through an Internet connection.

6.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 37, wherein the programming schedule includes a time, date and duration of the one or more television programs that are to be recorded.

7.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 37, wherein the programming schedule include transmission source information that enables the interactive television system to tune to one or more signals in which the one or more television programs are encoded.

8.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 7, wherein the transmission source information identifies at least one of a television broadcast channel, a cable channel, and a satellite channel through which the one or more signals is to be received by the interactive television system.

9-12   (Canceled)

13.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 44, wherein the act of receiving the program schedule comprises an act of accessing a web page from the server.

14.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 13, wherein the web page identifies at least one television signal provider corresponding to a location of the interactive television system.

15.   (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 44, further comprising the acts of:

        prior to sending the first request, receiving user input at the computing ~~device~~ system selecting a television signal provider associated with a location of the interactive television system; and

        transmitting information representing the selection of the television signal provider to the server.

16-26. (Canceled)

27.   (Previously Presented) A computer program product as recited in claim 50, wherein the programming schedule identifies a time, date and duration of the one or more television programs to be recorded.

28.   (Previously Presented) A computer program product as recited in claim 50, wherein the programming schedule includes transmission source information that enables the interactive television system to tune to one or more signals in which the one or more selected television programs are encoded.

29.   (Previously Presented) A computer program product as recited in claim 28, wherein the transmission source information identifies at least one of a television broadcast channel, a cable channel, and a satellite channel through which the one or more signals is to be received by the interactive television system.

30.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product as recited in claim 50, wherein the computing device ~~device~~ system and the server are connected through an Internet connection.

31-36. (Canceled)

37.   (Currently Amended) In a server that communicates with an interactive television system that includes a computing system and a recording device that is configured to record television programs, and wherein the interactive television system is connectable by means of the computing system to a server that is connectable to a network, a method for enabling the server to control the recording of one or more selected television programs by the interactive television system, the method comprising the acts of:

receiving at the server a request from a computing system for a programming schedule that identifies one or more television programs, the request being made at the computing system;

in response to the request, the server providing the programming schedule to the computing system;

receiving, at the server, an identification provided from the computing system of one or more television programs to be recorded, the one or more television programs to be recorded having been selected from a display of the programming schedule at the computing system; and

in response to the one or more television programs being identified for recording, the server, downloading recording instructions to the interactive television system so that the recording device will thereafter be set up to record the one or more selected television programs, wherein the recording instructions are downloaded from the server through at least one of a television signal and the Internet.

38.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 37, wherein the recording instructions include a record command for the recording device.

39.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 38, wherein the recording device is a VCR.

40.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 37, wherein the recording instructions include the time, date and duration of the one or more television programs to be recorded.

41.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 37, wherein the recording instructions include transmission information that enables the interactive television system to tune to one or more signals in which the one or more television programs to be recorded are encoded.

42.   (Cancelled).

43.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 37, wherein the computing system and the recording device are integrated into a single device.

44.   (Previously Presented) In an interactive television system that includes a computing system and a recording device that is configured to record television programs, and wherein the interactive television system is connectable by means of the computing system to a server that is connectable to a network, a method for enabling the server to control the recording of one or more selected television programs by the interactive television system, the method comprising the acts of:

sending, from the computing system, a request to the server for a program schedule that identifies television programs that can be received by the interactive television system;

receiving, at the computing system, the program schedule from the server;

displaying, at the computing system, the program schedule after it is received from the server;

receiving, at the computing system, a user selection of one or more television programs from the program schedule;

sending, from the computing system, a request to the remote server for the selected one or more television programs to be recorded;

receiving, at the interactive television system, and in response to the request for the one or more television programs to be recorded, recording instructions that will cause the recording device of the interactive television system to be set up to record the one or more selected television programs, wherein the recording instructions are received from the server through at least one of a television signal and the Internet.

45.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 44, wherein the recording instructions include a record command for the recording device.

46.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 45, wherein the recording device is a VCR.

47.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 44, wherein the recording instructions include at least one of the time, date, duration and tuning instructions corresponding to the one or more television programs to be recorded.

48.   (Cancelled).

49.   (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 44, wherein the computing device-system and the recording device are integrated into a single device.

50.   (Currently Amended) In an interactive television system that includes a computing system and a recording device that is configured to record television programs, and wherein the interactive television system is connectable by means of the computing system to a server that is connectable to a network, ~~a method for enabling the server to control the recording of one or more selected television programs by the interactive television system~~, a computer program product comprising:

one or more computer-readable media having computer-executable instructions for implementing a method for enabling the server to control the recording of one or more television programs that are selected by the computing ~~device~~ system and that are recorded by the recording device of the interactive television system, the method including the acts of:

sending, from the computing system , a request to the server for a program schedule that identifies television programs that can be received by the interactive television system;

receiving, at the computing system, the program schedule from the server;

displaying, at the computing system, the program schedule after it is received from the server;

receiving, at the computing system, a user selection of one or more television programs from the program schedule;

sending, from the computing system, a request to the remote server for the selected one or more television programs to be recorded;

receiving, at the interactive television system, and in response to the request for the one or more television programs to be recorded, recording instructions that will cause the recording device of the interactive television system to be set up to record the one or more selected television programs, wherein the recording instructions are received from the server through at least one of a television signal and the Internet.

51.   (Previously Presented) A computer program product as recited in claim 50, wherein the act of receiving the program schedule comprises an act of accessing a web page from the server.

52.   (Previously Presented) A computer program product as recited in claim 50, wherein the recording instructions include a record command for the recording device.

53.   (Previously Presented) A computer program product as recited in claim 52, wherein the recording device is a VCR.

54.   (Previously Presented) A computer program product as recited in claim 50, wherein the recording instructions include the time, date and duration of the one or more television programs to be recorded.

55.   (Previously Presented) A computer program product as recited in claim 50, wherein the recording instructions include transmission information that enables the interactive television system to tune to one or more signals in which the one or more television programs to be recorded are encoded.

56.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product as recited in claim 50, wherein the remote device computing system comprises the computing system of the interactive television system.

57.   (Previously Presented) A computer program product as recited in claim 50, wherein the computing system and the recording device are integrated in a single device.

58.   (Currently Amended) In a server that communicates with an interactive television system that includes a computing system and a recording device that is configured to record television programs, and wherein the interactive television system is connectable by means of the computing system to a server that is connectable to a network, ~~a method for enabling the server to control the recording of one or more selected television programs by the interactive television system~~, a computer program product comprising:

one or more computer-readable media having computer-executable instructions for implementing a method for enabling the server to control the recording of one or more selected television programs by the interactive television system, the method comprising the acts of:

receiving at the server a request from a computing system for a programming schedule that identifies one or more television programs, the request being made at the computing system;

in response to the request, the server providing the programming schedule to the computing system;

receiving at the server an identification provided from the computing system of one or more television programs to be recorded, the one or more television programs to be recorded having been selected from a display of the programming schedule at the computing system ; and

in response to the one or more television programs being identified for recording, the server, downloading recording instructions to the interactive television system so that the recording device will thereafter be set up to record the one or more selected television programs, wherein the recording instructions are downloaded from the server through at least one of a television signal and the Internet.

59.   (Previously Presented) A computer program product as recited in claim 58, wherein the recording instructions include a record command for the recording device.

60.   (Previously Presented) A computer program product as recited in claim 59 wherein the recording device is a VCR.

61.   (Previously Presented) A computer program product as recited in claim 58, wherein the recording instructions include at least one of the time, date, duration and tuning instructions corresponding to the one or more television programs to be recorded.

62.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product as recited in claim 58, wherein the computing device-system comprises part of the interactive television system.

63.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product as recited in claim 58, wherein the computing device-system and the recording device are integrated into a single device.

64.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 37, wherein the request for a programming schedule is received at an Internet web site through the use of a conventional Web browser.

65.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 37, wherein the programming schedule is provided through a web page of the server.

66.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 65, wherein prior to providing the programming schedule, user input is received at the web page identifying a television programming provider.

67.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 76, wherein access to the programming homepage is accessible only after screening a user via a password.

68.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 37, wherein the recording instructions are embedded in and received with the television programs.

69.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 37, wherein the programming information is made available to the user based on a determination of at least one of a caller ID, area code and phone number of the user.

70.   (Previously Presented)   A method as recited in claim 37, wherein appropriate programming information to be sent to the computing system within the programming schedule is based on determining a locality of a user's modem.

71.   (Previously Presented)   A method as recited in claim 70, wherein the locality of the user's modem is determined according to a caller ID.

72.   (Previously Presented)   A method as recited in claim 69, wherein the locality of the user's modem is determined according to a phone number.

73.   (Previously Presented)   A method as recited in claim 37, wherein subsequent to downloading recording instructions, the server transmits data comprising an end-of VCR control information to the computing system.

74.   (Previously Presented)   A method as recited in claim 68, wherein the recording instructions are embedded in and received with the television programs by being inserted in special television channel.

75.   (Previously Presented)   A method as recited in claim 68, wherein the recording instructions are embedded in and received with the television programs by being inserted as a binary ASCII-format character string that is assigned specific control functions.

76   (Previously Presented)   A method as recited in claim 37, further comprising:

receiving, at the server, a request from a computing system to access a programming homepage;

in response to the request to access the programming homepage, providing the computing system access to the programming homepage, the programming homepage identifying a plurality of television signal providers;

receiving, at the server, a selection of an appropriate one of the plurality of television signal providers; and

in response to the computing system selecting the appropriate television signal provider, and upon receiving a request from the computing system for a corresponding program schedule, the server providing the programming schedule to the computing system.

77   (Cancelled).

78   (Previously Presented)   A method as recited in claim 37, wherein the recording instructions are downloaded from the server through the Internet.